



LBPD

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 2008

Crime Watch News

Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

Robert Luna
Deputy Chief of Police
Patrol Bureau

William Blair
Deputy Chief of Police
Investigations Bureau

Jeffrey Craig
Deputy Chief of Police
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Bureau Chief
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations
Division

Paul Sanford
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations
Division

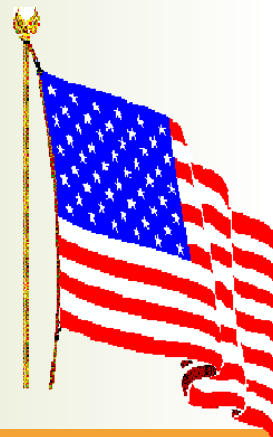
Community Crime Prevention Meeting

Neighborhood Watch Appreciation BBQ

(For Block Captains and Their Neighbors Only)

Wednesday
June 18, 2008 @ 6:00 P.M.

Police Officers Association (POA) Park
7290 East Carson Street
(Behind Lowe's Home Improvement)



E-mail Crime Watch Newsletter

All future newsletters will be mailed electronically, unless requested in hard copy format. Please provide your e-mail address to Police Services Specialist Nicole Avalos at:

Nicole_Avalos@longbeach.gov

Those of you who do not wish to have your Crime Watch Newsletter e-mailed to you, please call Community Relations at (562) 570-7215 to update your address information.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **June 14** **23rd Annual Champions Run for Life** at the Rainbow Harbor Esplanade. Call 562.933.8600 for more information.
- ♦ **June 14-15** **Summer Games - Special Olympics Southern California** will be held June 14-15 at California State University, Long Beach. Call 562.354.2602 for more information.
- ♦ **July 4** **Sea Festival Event: July 4th Festival** at the Marina Green. Call 562.426.7670 for more information.

Building Partnerships to Prevent Crime Through Information and Education

CHILD PREDATOR SOUGHT

Police are seeking the public's help in identifying and locating a man accused of trying to lure young children. On Saturday, May 3, 2008 at approximately 9:30 a.m., a man parked his vehicle in an alley in the residential area of Orange Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway and attempted to lure two small children to his car. The suspect then circled the area several times where the children were playing. The suspect then exited his vehicle, approached the children and showed them what is described as pornographic photographs. When the suspect was unsuccessful at his attempts to lure the children away, he drove away from the location and out of sight.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008 shortly before 6:00 p.m., detectives received information that the suspect was again seen by the same children driving his vehicle in the area. The vehicle is described as possibly a gray late 90's model 2-door Honda with a sunroof.

The suspect is described as a male White or light skinned Hispanic, between 20-30 years-old, 5'8 to 5'11 tall, 160 lbs., with wavy short to medium length hair and has a patch of hair just below his lower lip. He was seen wearing a white t-shirt and brown pants.

Surveillance video from a personal home security system was captured showing the suspect talking to the children.

Police advise the following safety tips in order to increase the safety of young children:

- ♦ Teach your child about "stranger danger," including screaming and running when approached by a stranger
- ♦ Role-play these activities with your children, especially the younger ones, so they will react quickly when approached
- ♦ Start a Neighborhood Watch on your block to encourage all neighbors to regularly watch the neighborhood and call in any suspicious activity. Call 562.570.7229 for more information on Neighborhood Watch program
- ♦ Cellular phones should be programmed with the Long Beach Police Department's emergency number for cellular phones 562.435.6711. 9-1-1 from cellular phones goes to California Highway Patrol
- ♦ Details such as suspect and vehicle description including whole or partial license plate numbers are very effective in assisting the Police with apprehending suspects.

Anyone who recognizes this suspect or has information regarding this incident is urged to contact Detectives Jennifer Kearns or Hector Nieves at 562.570.7638 or 562.435.6711.



Painting of House Numbers on City Curbs

Long Beach residents reported that individuals come to their door and inform them that they have painted their house number on the curb and would like a donation for the service even though the residents' permission had not been sought prior to the painting. Others reported that they pay a fee only to find that the curb has not been painted correctly.

City Municipal Code Section 14.36 establishes a process by which permits are issued to persons and organizations for the painting of house numbers on curbs. It also outlines requirements, permit procedures, uniform standards, where prohibited, and general restrictions for painting house numbers on curbs.

Curb painting permits are issued by the Chief of Police. Permits are also required for residents who wish to paint their curbs; and painters must give written notice to residents of intent to paint curbs.

Long Beach residents are encourage to report any curb-painter who is aggressive solicitations for money and fraudulent charitable appeals, as well as vandalism of public and private property, assault and possible casing for burglaries.

- ♦ In emergency, call 911
- ♦ For non-emergency or from your cell phone, call 562.435.6711

GOLD SHIELD AWARD & CHIEF'S



The Neighborhood Watch Appreciation BBQ will be held on

**Wednesday
June 18, 2008, @ 6:00 p.m.
POA Park
7290 E. Carson Street
BBQ will be served
around 6:30 p.m.**

We will also be presenting two Chief's Citations this evening for Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and their Neighborhood Watch Groups who have excelled in their attempts to promote neighborhood safety and the Neighborhood Watch Program.

This is just the Police Department's way to say "thank you" to those groups that are making the extra effort to educate their neighbors.

The men and women of the Long Beach Police Department greatly appreciate your participation and efforts.

Once again, congratulations to these recipients of the 2008 Gold Shield Award and Chief's Citation!

This Neighborhood Watch Appreciation is for Block Captains and their Neighbors Only!



Scam Artists Arrested ADDITIONAL VICTIMS SOUGHT

A husband and wife team, along with a third suspect, were arrested by Long Beach Police as part of an on-going investigation of "theft with false pretense."

The five incidents occurred from February to April 2008, with thousands of dollars and one car stolen from the victims.

The incidents occurred in the East Long Beach near busy shopping centers. In order to gain the victim's confidence, the suspects posed as "Africans/Jamaicans" with accents and told the victims they were here on a temporary Visa and needed to return to their country. In some cases, the victims were shown a letter from Africa and a large sum of money they had to donate to an "African Church," before they began soliciting the victim for a ride to the church.

As the victims were asked for proof that they could be trusted, a second suspect, posing as innocent bystander who had overheard their conversation approached. The second suspect would emphasize that they could be trusted, and to prove it would offer to drive to their own bank to pull out a significant amount of money. Next, they would drive to the victim's bank so a cash withdraw could be made giving the victim the chance to prove their trust worthiness. When the victim showed the suspect the money, the suspect would hold the bundle of money, pray, and then "switch" the real money with fake money before returning it. Once the suspects left, the victims would open the money bindle discovering only fake money or rolled up paper.

Long Beach Police Forgery/Fraud detectives arrested three individuals who they believe are responsible for at least the five incidents, and also believe that additional victims may exist. The case was presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and charges of grand theft, and thefts by false pretenses were filed against all three suspects.

The suspects have been identified as follows:



- ♦ Suspect #1 – 52-year-old Dennis Curry of San Diego, male Black, 6'3" 180 lbs. and bald
- ♦ Suspect #2 – 53-year-old Vickie Curry of San Diego, female Black, 5'6," 210 lbs., brown hair and eyes
- ♦ Suspect #3 – 50-year-old Gloria Henderson of Los Angeles, female Black, 5'1," 130 lbs., brown hair and eyes

Anyone who has fallen victim to this scam, that has not yet reported the incident to police should contact Detective J. Macias or Investigator S. Chap at 562.570.7330.



**Long Beach Police Department
Community Relations Division
400 West Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90802**

Crime Watch News

Editor: Karen Owens
Administrator
562-570-7215
www.longbeach.gov/police



4th of July Celebration



The City of Long Beach would like to remind everyone that ALL fireworks, including sparklers are dangerous and ILLEGAL within the city limits. Residents and visitors should be aware that firework vendors may set up booths close to Long Beach city limits, however, the booths are actually located in an adjacent city.

Our City ordinance, which was adopted over 40 years ago, prohibits the use or possession of all fireworks, even those classified as "Safe and Sane." The Long Beach Police and Fire departments will be enforcing the ban on all fireworks, including sparklers, within the City of Long Beach. If an individual is found using or in possession of any type of fireworks, the person may be arrested and fined \$1,000, sentenced to jail for six months, or both. Make this 4th of July plans in advance by checking their local newspaper for professional fireworks displays.

Every year across the country, people receive serious, often debilitating injuries, because of the use of fireworks. Injuries can result in severe burns, scars and disfigurement that can last a lifetime. On a typical 4th of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. It's for these reasons that all fireworks, other than licensed and controlled professional public displays, are illegal within Long Beach.

Once again, please check local newspapers for location and times. Have a safe and joyful 4th of July.